



PRESS RELEASE

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Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation

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FIDELCO GUIDE DOG FOUNDATION ASKS TAXPAYERS TO SHARE THE VISION®: DONATING TAX REFUNDS IS MONEY WELL SPENT

BLOOMFIELD, Conn. – With the tax filing deadline now behind us, Connecticut-based Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation has a reminder for taxpayers anxiously awaiting refund checks: a shopping splurge at the mall may feel good now, but the reward for changing someone’s life with a charitable donation is priceless.

“Typically, people donate to charities during the holiday season or when disasters strike,” said Fidelco CEO and Executive Director Eliot D. Russman. “But blindness doesn’t take a day off, and there are no disaster declarations for men and women who become blind. When people give to Fidelco year-round, their donations go to work right away, empowering our clients with increased freedom and independence in a world that presumes the ability of everyone to see.”

The average tax refund this year is around \$2,800, according to the IRS. Donating at least a portion of that refund is a win-win, as charitable gifts made to Fidelco today can be used as itemized deductions for your 2014 filing next year. According to Russman, “A tax refund donation to Fidelco of \$1,000 will help cover the costs of our In-Community Placement, so a client can train with their new Fidelco Guide Dog where they live and work. \$500 ensures our trainers can make annual follow-up visits to our clients across North America. And even \$100 is important because it will feed a puppy for a month.”

The need for Fidelco’s life-changing guide dog services exists year-round. Fidelco breeds and trains its elite German Shepherd Guide Dogs for people who are blind across North America. It takes two years, 15,000 hands-on hours and \$45,000 to produce each Fidelco Guide Dog, and they are given to clients at no cost.

It’s reported that every seven minutes, someone in America becomes blind or visually impaired. With an ever-increasing demand for its world-class guide dogs, Fidelco relies solely on the generosity and financial support of individuals, foundations, corporations and civic organizations to help Share the Vision®. Visit www.fidelco.org for more information and to donate today.

About Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation

The Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in Bloomfield, CT. Fidelco is an internationally accredited organization and an admired expert throughout the world for its highly valued German Shepherd Guide Dogs.

Each Fidelco Guide Dog takes two years, 15,000 hands-on hours and \$45,000 to produce. They are given to clients at no cost. Fidelco provides 24/7 client support for the entire working life of its guide dogs – typically 10 years. Fidelco relies solely on the generosity and financial support of individuals, foundations, corporations and civic organizations to help Share the Vision®.

Fidelco has trained and placed over 1,350 German Shepherd Guide Dogs throughout North America – in 41 states and five Canadian provinces. Fidelco pioneered In-Community Placement in the United States — a process that allows all guide dog users to be trained in the communities where they live and work.

Fidelco also has placed hundreds of its German Shepherd Dogs with law enforcement agencies, first responders, search and rescue, and missing child recovery organizations to help protect our fellow citizens and keep our communities safe. For more information visit www.fidelco.org.

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